**Evaluation video script**

When your tutor uses the term ‘evaluate’ in your assignment feedback, what do they mean?

To evaluate means to judge or assess the value of something. Evaluation is often a part of reflection or a decision-making approach.

What are you doing when you’re evaluating?

Evaluation requires that you assess the evidence that you are using e.g. Is it reliable? Is it trustworthy? Is there any bias? What are the weaknesses or limitations of that evidence?

Being able to evaluate a situation, a treatment or a piece of research is an important skill for a health or social work professional.

What does evaluation mean in practice?

In practice, evaluation can mean making a judgment on the success of an intervention. For example:

* To what extent did it achieve what was intended?
* How well did it work?
* How do we know?
* What could or should be done differently?

What ability do I need to use/show?

In evaluative writing, you need to show that you are able to assess the merits of a situation, a process or an argument (from practice or from an academic or a professional article). Remember to do this in an objective and non-judgemental way, equally considering the positive and negative aspects.

What’s an example of evaluative writing?

A literature review is a good example of evaluation, which includes comparing and contrasting research papers and clinical evidence to make a judgment on the credibility and value of the literature reviewed.

What is the relevance to your own practice?

You may need to evaluate the worth of an idea or argument in terms of its relevance to your own practice. For example,

* How can I use this?
* Is it transferable to my setting?
* Is it cost-effective?
* Are there any gaps in the evidence that I should be concerned about?
* What alternatives do I need to consider?

In summary, evaluation:

* involves judging the value or merit of something,
* uses a questioning approach,
* and is an important part of making good decisions.

Ultimately, the purpose of a good evaluation is to improve research and future practice.